

**MALTA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
(MIPP) QUALIFICATIONS**

(VO 0438)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Last Updated: 05/02/2017 –KC

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General Regulations

These regulations apply to all applicants at any level of qualification.

Application and Submission

1. The Malta Institute of Professional Photography (MIPP) has three of levels of qualification namely:
 - a. Licentiate (LMIPP)
 - b. Associate (AMIPP)
 - c. Fellow (FMIPP)
2. This system is progressive. Members should achieve all three qualifications in the indicated sequence.
 - a. Although not a requirement, it is suggested that candidates are to obtain a Licentiate (LMIPP) before applying for Associate level (AMIPP).
 - b. In order to be eligible to apply for Fellowship level (FMIPP) a candidate must have previously achieved an Associate qualification (AMIPP) from the MIPP.
3. Applicants must be fully paid-up registered members of the Malta Institute of Professional Photography during the period between and including the application date and qualification date.
 - a. All members are encouraged to apply for the process of qualifications.
 - b. Submissions must be accompanied by a fully completed, signed official application form and the respective application fee. The correct application form may be obtained from MIPP Executive Committee members or downloaded from the MIPP official website http://mipp-malta.com/wp-content/uploads/Qualifications/MIPP_QUALIFICATION_REGULATIONS.pdf
 - c. In order to preserve anonymity, a personal reference number will be given to identify each candidate's submission. This number must be noted on the back of each individual entry of the submitted panel, as well as on the digital images CD and application form.
 - d. The "Specialty Section" or "Theme" should be clearly identified on the application form. Refer to individual qualification sections (entitled *Further Rules and Regulations*) for applicable themes.

- e. Application forms must be accompanied by the applicant's curriculum vitae.
 - f. Incomplete or incorrect applications will be refused and the submission disqualified.
 - g. The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse any qualification applications as it deems necessary.
4. All Qualification submissions are to be accompanied by a full set of images in digital format on CD or DVD.
- a. Files must be in TIFF format at least 2000 pixels on the longest side without any borders.
 - b. No signs or marks should be present on the images.
 - c. All panels remain the property of the respective entrants; however the MIPP reserves the right to use the digital images for MIPP records, promotional and educational purposes. Due credit will be given whenever the images are published.
 - d. The MIPP will not use submitted images for commercial purposes without the author's consent.
5. All expenses incurred as part of the qualification process are to be borne by the candidate. This includes but is not limited to:
- a. Equipment used
 - b. Printing
 - c. Finishing and presentation
 - d. Any postage, where applicable (including return postage).
 - e. Where return postage costs are applicable and requested by the applicant, the amount necessary to cover this must be included together with the submission.
6. Candidates are advised to pack submissions securely in order to avoid possible damage.
- a. All submissions are made at the candidate's own risk. The MIPP, whilst taking every reasonable care, cannot be held liable for any loss or damage.
7. All photographs (except printing and/or mounting) must be entirely the work of the entrant.

- a. Digital enhancement and editing techniques are permissible but these must also be entirely the work of the entrant.
- b. Applicants must ensure that they have all necessary permits, waivers and release forms for their entries. Entries must be the author's own original work and not breach any copyright laws.
- c. It is the personal responsibility of the submitting authors for any claim or liability arising out of the publication or exhibition of their entries as the MIPP categorically disclaims any liability whatsoever.
- d. The Executive Committee reserves the right to call for additional evidence in support of any application as it deems necessary. Failure to submit such evidence may lead to refusal of the application.
- e. Qualified Panels which are later found to have violated any of the qualification rules will be disqualified and the Qualification considered as null and void. The MIPP also reserves the right to take any further disciplinary measures necessary.
- f. Plagiarism, in all forms, is strictly prohibited and can result in disqualification, even after the Qualification has been awarded.

***Plagiarism** refers to the practice of taking someone else's **work or ideas** and passing them off as one's own. Entries which are deemed to closely resemble or be similarly derived from the previous work of others can be disqualified at any stage. Where multiple photographs are used to construct a final photograph, all constituent parts must be the original photographic work of the Photographer.

8. There is no restriction on printing methodologies or the use of third parties for printing and mounting. It is encouraged that MIPP sponsors are used when possible.
 - a. If third-party services (such as laboratories) are used, the candidate must accept total responsibility for the quality and finishing of the pictures submitted.
 - b. Print surfaces may be glossy or matt.
 - c. Speciality surfaces are also allowed.
 - d. Prints may be presented in colour, monotone, black and white, etc.
 - e. A panel may also contain mixed media.

- f. All submitted evidence, whether in the form of images or the written word, should be presented in a clean, well-finished manner. Inappropriate presentation will not result in disqualification; however it is to be noted that presentation weighs heavily on the outcome of a judging process.
9. Qualification sessions are held publicly on an annual basis.
- a. The current MIPP Secretary General is responsible for co-ordinating the MIPP qualifications.
 - b. While it is considered to be advantageous for the candidates to be present during the judging process of their panel, this is not obligatory, and candidates may decide not to attend whilst their panel is being assessed.
 - c. The general public may attend Qualification judging but the MIPP Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any or all of those wishing to attend.
 - d. Foreign candidates who cannot be present for the Qualification panel must designate another MIPP member to act as their proxy. This member will be responsible for submitting the panel and all other official requirements.
10. Prints are displayed and judged together as a set on a well-lit, neutral background.
- a. The candidate must designate with a diagram the order in which his submission is to be displayed. This diagram must accompany the submission panel. In the case of a **Digital Licentiate** panel, this diagram is to be printed and submitted on an 8x12 inch photograph.
 - b. Print Panels are to be displayed and put up by the candidates (or their proxy) in two rows.
 - c. There may be a maximum of twelve works in any one row.
 - d. A maximum of ten minutes is allocated to each candidate in order to set up the panel.
 - e. The correct number of prints requested **must** be submitted. Too many or too few will result in automatic disqualification.
 - f. A certificate, given under the common seal of the MIPP, will be issued to each successful candidate. The theme in which the candidate has been successful will be clearly shown on the official certificate.

Submission Process

11. Qualification assessment panels are periodically judged.
12. Candidates should refer to the MIPP newsletter or website regularly in order to learn when the closing date is announced. This information may also be obtained from the Executive Committee.
13. The closing date for application forms and fee submission is usually announced a number of weeks before the actual judging session. While theme and other application details need to be specified at this stage, the final panel need not be presented until the Qualification judging session.
14. Late applications will be refused.
15. The complete submission, including the panel, digital images CD or DVD and supporting material must be received or brought by the candidate at the date and time designated by the MIPP. Failure to do so in a timely manner will result in disqualification of the application.

Unsuccessful Applications

16. In the event of a submission being unsuccessful, the chairman of the judging panel will discuss the reasons for failure with the candidate, if in attendance.
17. The decision of the approved selection panel is final. No appeals are permitted.
18. Judges cannot award a lower qualification should an applicant fail with his chosen submission.
19. It is inevitable that some who work hard towards a qualification can be disappointed. Those with talent, and the tenacity to succeed, try again, and again, if necessary. When they do eventually succeed, they do not resent the struggle, for the achievement puts it into perspective. Even those who never succeed find that the striving has improved their photographic expertise.

Reciprocal Qualification Agreement with the SWPP (The Societies)

The MIPP has currently in effect a reciprocal qualification agreement with the SWPP of Great Britain only. Some conditions exist. For full details of this Agreement visit the MIPP website:

http://mipp-malta.com/wp-content/uploads/Qualifications/RECIPROCAL_AGREEMENT_SWPP.pdf

Please note that applicants for reciprocal qualifications will be asked to provide evidence of their submission and membership, in order to receive Reciprocal certification. Applicants are also to provide the MIPP with high resolution digital copies of their successful panel on CD or DVD together with the reciprocal application. It is to be noted that Digital Licentiate Panels are not included in this reciprocal agreement.

Further Rules and Regulations for Licentiateship (LMIPP) Digital Qualification

Licentiateship (L.M.I.P.P) is the first level of qualified membership. It is recognition of a general basic level of skill and competence for professional practice within photography and denotes a good level of style and creative ability.

Licentiates carry a responsibility for the development of the profession and the MIPP.

During assessment, the judging panel looks for careful selection of the evidence submitted by the candidate, including composition, control and lighting of the subject; the use of sympathetic backgrounds and an awareness of the importance of print quality.

Licentiate submissions should also reflect experience and breadth of photographic knowledge.

The submission for L.M.I.P.P. must consist of 20 examples of current photography on a **theme** chosen from the list on **page 8**. The panel should naturally also portray general evidence of competence in the foundations of photography.

Digital Images

The Licentiateship is submitted in the form of Digital Images. The files must be in TIFF format at 3000 pixels on the longest side without any borders.

- a. The digital panel will be judged as a set. In the case of a **Digital Licentiate** panel, this diagram is to be printed and submitted on an 8x12 inch photograph.
- b. Panels are to be configured in two rows.
- c. There may be a maximum of twelve works in any one row.

Assessment of LMIPP Digital Submissions

The candidate's Digital work is examined by a panel, which can comprise of up to five Associates (if available), or a minimum of three Associates. Judges who have a higher Qualification can also be utilized.

The judging panel looks for images that show that the applicant is in full control of the medium. Images should show correct camera technique, full control of lighting and an understanding of quality in the production of the finished image.

The photographer's work should show control of the subjects portrayed and in the case of people, that they are posed in an attractive manner and good expressions obtained.

The images should be presented in such a way that if the judges were members of the public they could not reasonably be rejected. The images should be "of marketable quality".

If a Licentiate Panel is passed by all five judges, that particular panel will be awarded a Distinction.

Further Rules and Regulations for Associateship (AMIPP) Print Qualification

Associateship (A.M.I.P.P) is the second level of qualified membership. It is recognition of a sound level of skill and competence for professional practice within photography.

The panel looks for careful selection of the evidence submitted by the candidate, including composition, control and lighting of the subject; the use of sympathetic backgrounds and an awareness of the importance of print quality.

Associateship (A.M.I.P.P.) denotes a high level of technical and creative ability, cohesion and style. Associate submissions should also reflect experience and breadth of photographic knowledge and technique.

Associates are to be considered as a middle level group and carry the responsibility for the development of the profession and the MIPP.

The submission for A.M.I.P.P. must consist of 20 examples of current photography on a **theme** chosen from the list on **page 8**. The panel should naturally also portray general evidence of competence in the foundations of photography, as well as creativity, originality and the right use of lighting.

Prints

The size of submitted prints, including any mounting or borders, must not exceed 20 inches on the longest side.

They all must be submitted on lightweight boards. The maximum size of the final submission, including mounting boards and borders, should therefore not exceed 20 x 20 inches.

The overall thickness of each submission (including prints, overlays etc.) must not exceed 7 mm.

Heavy materials (such as hardboard, Perspex or frames) are not permitted.

Assessment of AMIPP Submissions

The candidate's work is examined by a panel which can comprise of up to five Fellows (if available), and a minimum of (one Fellow and four Associates). When not enough judges are available, the Associate panel may consist of three Fellows.

The general notes for Licentiate submissions also apply to Associate images, but with the added requirement that judges wish to see far more creative interpretation, better choice of location, more thought and faultless technique.

If an Associate Panel is passed by all five judges, that particular panel will be awarded a Distinction.

Further Rules and Regulations for Fellowship (FMIPP) Print Qualification

Fellowship (FMIPP) is the third and highest level of qualified membership. It is recognition of a high level of skill and competence for professional practice within photography and allied technologies. Fellowship denotes a high level of technical and creative ability, cohesion and style. Fellowship submissions should also reflect great experience and breadth of knowledge.

Candidates should submit 20 examples of current photography, **all** of which should portray a single specialist area/subject/theme **chosen by the applicant**. The chosen special theme should be pre-stated on the application form by the applicant. There is no restriction on themes.

Prints

The size of submitted prints, including any mounting or borders, must not exceed 20 inches on the longest side.

They all must be submitted on lightweight boards. The maximum size of the final submission, including mounting boards and borders, should therefore not exceed 20 x 20 inches.

The overall thickness of each submission (including prints, overlays etc.) must not exceed 7 mm.

Heavy materials (such as hardboard, Perspex or frames) are not permitted.

Assessment of FMIPP Submissions

The candidate's work is examined by a panel, which can comprise of up to five Fellows (whenever available) or a minimum of three Fellows.

Fellowship of the MIPP is the highest distinction and recognizes the Fellow member as a master of his/her craft and able to create work of the highest standard both technically and artistically.

THEMES FOR LMIPP & AMIPP QUALIFICATIONS

(FMIPP Themes are chosen by the applicant but need to be first approved by the MIPP)

SPORT & LEISURE

TRAVEL & TOURISM

MEDIA & PRESS

COMMERCIAL

INDUSTRIAL

WEDDING

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY

FASHION

GLAMOUR

NATURE & WILDLIFE *

SCENICS (LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE)

ARCHITECTURAL & INTERIOR

FINE ART

CHILD PHOTOGRAPHY

MACRO (NATURE) *

MACRO (GENERAL)

DIGITAL ART

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

HUMAN PORTRAITURE

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

Notes on Thematic subjects:

Macro Nature photography refers to photography devoted to displaying close-ups usually of very small subjects in their natural habitat, scenes and textures including landscapes, wildlife and plants. Classically a macro photograph is one in which the finished photograph of a subject is greater than life size.

When Macro Nature will be chosen as a theme, a Nature advisor will be appointed to guide the judging panel during the judging day.

For the purpose of these Qualifications, NATURE and WILDLIFE are defined as follows:

Nature: Nature photography is restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The story telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality while maintaining high technical quality. Human elements shall not be present, except where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands, scientific tags or radio collars on wild animals is permissible. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation that alters the truth of the photographic statement. No techniques that add to, relocate, replace, or remove pictorial elements except by cropping are permitted. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photograph without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. All adjustments must appear natural.

Wildlife: Authentic wildlife is defined as one or more organisms, living free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat. Therefore, landscapes, photographs of zoo animals, game, farm animals, or any living subject taken under controlled conditions are not eligible for Wildlife competitions.

IMPORTANT: In the Sport and Nature themes, only minimal cropping, brightness/contrast and colour correction is allowed. This is to maintain the acknowledged ethical standards of Sport Photography as a journalistic practice and Nature Photography as a pure natural, unaltered practice.

Mentoring Service for MIPP Qualifications

In order for any member to reach the standard required for achieving any of the required qualification levels, it is very important that feedback is sought throughout the entire process. There are various details which can either help or hinder a submission – such details are easily missed by the inexperienced candidate and as such guidance from seasoned MIPP members is of the utmost importance. For this reason, the MIPP offers a mentoring service, which, although optional, is highly recommended.

Application for mentorship should be carried out as follows:

20. Mentors are appointed each year by the Executive Committee. Each applicant may choose a mentor from the ones appointed by the MIPP. The list varies each year, and applicants should submit a query for the list with the MIPP Executive Committee.
21. Once a Mentor is chosen, applicant would need to submit a varied selection of the images to the mentor. These images will form the basis for the final selection on the qualification panel. These images should have already been filtered by the applicant for technical correctness and high quality. An initial variety of around 30 images should be selected and submitted as 10"x8" prints or digital images. It is usually better to submit prints due to the fact that it is easier to evaluate the final result.
22. The mentor will evaluate the image set and return with feedback on the adequacy of the images for submission at the specific level. The mentor will usually also suggest various ways in which the submission may be improved, and may also ask to see more images on a specific style. This process will go on until the mentor feels that the final image set is of the required standard.
23. It is important that the final set of images is shown to the mentor in printed form at least a few weeks before submission, as the Mentor might suggest some further changes to the set based on print quality.

It is important to note that mentoring **does not** in any way guarantee success of a submission. It is uniquely intended to guide and help applicants with their qualification submissions. Mentors will never commit to the success of a panel since the quality can only be expressed in their opinion. Further to this, mentors are barred from judging any panels which they have mentored.

MIPP mentors offer a very valuable service, and as such the MIPP feels the need to pay a nominal fee for their services. When mentoring service (which is optional) is requested by applicants, a

further €35 should be paid in addition to the standard qualification fees. While this fee is but a token compensation for the service rendered by mentors, it does go towards showing an appreciation for such services. This fee is to be paid directly to the mentor chosen. Mentoring can be ascertained and confirmed only if members finalise the bulk of their work by the last day of August, leaving only printing for the month prior to the closing date. It is up to the Mentors themselves to accept to mentor or not after the end of August.

Annex D – February 2017/KC